

Alexandria Gazette and Virginia Advertiser



PUBLISHED DAILY & TRI-WEEKLY BY
EDGAR SNOWDEN.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 9

The votes of a legally, if not rightfully elected President were counted to day according to legal and prescribed forms. The country may therefore be gratulated upon a return to the legal and proper mode of electing its chief magistrate, and upon the speedy close of the term of a President whose election was conceived in fraud and executed by perjury, and in ways altogether outside the manner contemplated by the framers of the constitution.

It will be seen that the application for a further postponement of the sale of the A. M. & O. R. R. has been refused by the U. S. Circuit Court at Richmond, and that the sale will take place to-morrow.

The extension of the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad to Newport News, has been let to contractors. The eastern terminus of the projected Richmond and Southwestern railroad, is at Gloucester Point. The harbors of both these places, and the approaches to them, are the best on the Atlantic coast, and as Richmond, from natural causes, can never become a great commercial city, the immense trade of the railroads that now or will soon center there, must be transferred to them. But as two large shipping ports are not likely to grow up within so short a distance of each other, and as one large one would be more advantageous to every interest concerned than two small ones, and as the C. & O. is already building its road to Newport News, would it not be better for the Richmond and Southwestern railroad to abandon Gloucester Point, and make Newport News its eastern terminus also. The facilities of the last named place for a great shipping port are giving the commercial cities north of it no little anxiety, for whereas their harbors are not safe for vessels drawing twenty-seven feet of water, ships drawing twice that much can always come and go from Newport News without the slightest obstruction.

If ex Senator Lewis reports President elect Garfield correctly, the professed financial honesty and high regard for the blinding obligation of pecuniary contracts of the incoming administration were simply said, signifying nothing, and have already gone up in smoke. If the President elect advises the Mahonites he necessarily advises them to effect a forcible rearmament of the State debt, which is precisely repudiation, and away goes the ostentatiously pardoned honesty of the republican party. As the republican Central Committee of Virginia at their meeting yesterday, refused to issue a call for a State Convention on the 10th proximo, and thus followed the advice of those leaders of the party who are in favor of a coalition with the Mahonites, and rejected that of the straight republicans, they at least must have given full credit to what Mr. Lewis told them of his visit to Monitor.

Mr. James Lyons takes the same ground that Judge Chase did, namely, that if a conquering nation claims the property of the conquered by right of succession, as the United States did that of the Confederate States, it is thereby bound to pay all the debts of its victim. As the United States government not only claimed but obtained possession, by succession, of all the property held by Virginia, and taxes it to any desired extent, but utterly destroyed the only security upon which the State debt was contracted—for her lands without labor or value—it stands to reason, not that her creditors should be defrauded, but that the federal government should pay this debt. But it will be a much colder day than any so far experienced when the Congress of United States takes this view of the case.

To illustrate how perverted and even blind human nature can become under the influence of self interest, and that

"When told the wavering balance turns its rarely right adjusted."

we have only to mention that the Richmond Whig, alluding to Mr. Gorham's selfish attempt to effect an unholy alliance between the negroes and Mahonites in this State for other practicable purpose than to defraud the holders of Virginia securities, says: "He [Mr. Gorham] speaks from a high and broad standpoint, and his wise utterances will be heard by all who are devoted to principle than to personal advancement, and who are capable of seeking selfish and shallow partizanship in the nobler and purer tides of patriotism and liberal progress."

We return our thanks to State Senator C. T. Smith, for a copy of the prospectus and reports upon the Richmond and Southwestern railroad company.

PERISHED IN THE SNOW.—Some weeks since a rumor was current that a negro man had perished in the snow near Winchester. At the time we endeavored to discover whether there was any truth in the report, but could only learn that a negro man named Henry Newman was missing, and it was feared he had perished. It now turns out that the rumormonger was true, and his remains have since been found. It seems that Newman was in Winchester on the 24th of last December, but left that day for his home on Mr. Henry Stone's place, near town. He was under the influence of liquor. All searches for his body were unsuccessful until last Friday, when Peter Harris, colored, crossing the fields near the Valley school house on the Martinsburg pike, found the body around which a number of crows had gathered. His arm was sticking out of the snow and the crows had picked the flesh from the bone. An inquest was deemed unnecessary, and the body was buried in the field. Newman was about 36 years old, and leaves a wife and two children. —Winchester News.

CITY COUNCIL.

A regular meeting of the City Council was held last night.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

The Board of Aldermen was called to order at ten minutes to eight o'clock, with all the members present.

Mr. John B. Smoot, from the Finance Committee, reported a series of resolutions placing the fire plugs in charge of the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department and the Fire Wardens, and appropriating \$100 for the repair of the fire plugs for the present fiscal year, and directing the Auditor to open an account on his books against "Fire Plugs," and that he charge the sum of \$12.00, expended during the present fiscal year to fire plugs, and any sum expended since the date of his communication.

Mr. Smoot explained that the Committee on Streets and Public Property did not think that the expense of the fire plugs should be charged to their accounts, and the Finance Committee, to which the communication of the Auditor, setting forth that there was no fund for the repair of fire plugs, had been referred, had thought it best to place the charge in charge of the Chief Engineer and Fire Wardens, and when the appropriation bill was prepared to make a special appropriation for that purpose.

Mr. Kishill offered a resolution authorizing the Committee on Public Property to lease for the period of five years to Mr. Wm. A. Smoot, at a yearly rental of \$25, lots Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, located at Fishtown, and explained that the lots had been sold at auction last year and the parties buying them had never paid the purchase money; that Mr. Smoot was willing to take the lots at the price then offered, provided he could lease them for five years.

Mr. Strauss asked if the leasing of the lots would interfere with the leasing of the fish wharf.

It was informed by the chair that it would not, and the resolution was adopted.

A communication from the Mayor asking for an appropriation of \$100 for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the 22d of February celebration, and recommending the adoption of a resolution permitting the sale of fish by retail anywhere in the city, in order to enable a large number of needy poor to obtain a subsistence, being received and read.

Mr. Kishill moved that as much of the message relating to the appropriation of \$100 for the 22d of February parade be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Dowdham (Mr. Moore in the chair) said that as the celebration would be over before the next meeting of Council he could not consistently favor the motion. He had attended, as a spectator, a preliminary meeting to make arrangements for the parade, and being called upon by the Mayor for an expression of opinion he had stated that he would vote for an appropriation, and, if necessary, advocate it. He looked at the matter in a business way. The fire companies were to take part in the parade; they were volunteer organizations, the members of which exposed their lives for the protection of property, and as the Council had never given them so much as a fire hat, he thought it was as little as they could do to grant the request, out of the firemen, but of the Mayor. It would be no encouragement to the companies, and he hoped the appropriation would be granted.

Mr. Strauss said every American citizen delighted to honor the great and illustrious Washington, and he was willing to put his hand in his pocket and contribute toward the expenses of the celebration, but he did not think, in view of the present financial condition of the city, the Council had a right to appropriate the public money for a parade.

Mr. Dowdham again spoke in favor of the appropriation, and said he thought it as little as the Corporation could do to thus encourage the companies. He then offered a resolution appropriating \$100 toward the expenses of the proposed celebration.

Mr. Kishill moved that Venable be appointed in regard to the weather on the 22d.

Col. Reid offered as an amendment the following resolution:

Resolved, That in view of the message of His Honor, the Mayor of the city, in regard to the celebration of the coming 22d of February, and hearily concurring in the sentiments therein expressed, but also remembering the financial condition of the city at this time, we the members of the two Boards of the City Council promise to pay five dollars each toward said celebration.

Mr. Dowdham said he had already contributed five dollars for the celebration, and if the resolution passed would willingly contribute \$5 more, but he hoped the original resolution would pass.

The resolution offered by Col. Reid was then unanimously adopted.

Mr. Dowdham (Mr. Moore in the chair) offered a series of resolutions providing for the appointment of a committee to proceed to Washington on the 9th inst., with a view to a conference with Representative Harman and Senators Withers and Johnston, and request them to appear before the joint committee of Congress and represent the interest of the city in a bill now pending for a free bridge across the Potomac. He said that he had not heard until last night that Mr. Bacon Wheat had been before the committee in the interest of the city.

Mr. J. B. Smoot seconded the resolution. He thought the people of Alexandria should insist upon the request being kept in good record.

The resolutions were adopted.

Mr. Kishill moved that that part of the Mayor's message relating to the sale of fish be referred to the Committee on General Laws.

Mr. J. B. Smoot suggested that it go to the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund.

The suggestion was accepted and the matter was so referred.

An act prohibiting the sale of tobacco, cigars, candy, soda and mineral waters, or other articles of merchandise, including Sunday papers, in the city on Sunday; also an act prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors on Sunday, coming in from the Common Council were referred to the Committee on General Laws.

The resolution pledging each member of the Council to pay five dollars toward the expense of the 22d parade coming in from the Common Council endorsed "returned by the Common Council to the Board of Aldermen," several motions were made to refer the matter to committee, and after some debate the whole matter was dropped, and a resolution appropriating \$100 for the repair of pumps was taken up.

Mr. Strauss moved that it be referred to the Committee on Streets.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

The show which began in Chicago Monday continues, and the streets there are in a woful condition.

The New York Seventh Regiment have perfected arrangements to visit New Orleans on Mardi Gras.

A fire on Sunday nearly swept out of existence the town of Walnut, Iowa. Loss from \$50,000 to \$60,000.

The water continued to rise yesterday at New Orleans, and an area embracing five hundred blocks was submerged.

To the House Ways and Means committee yesterday, Mr. Tucker, of Virginia, presented a bill to repeal the stamp tax on exports of tobacco, and was instructed to report it favorably.

In both houses of Congress, yesterday, resolutions of respect to the memory of the late Representative Kewitt W. Farr, of New Hampshire, were adopted, and eulogistic addresses delivered.

The great floating ice field in front of Long Branch, N. J., has broken in twain (of the iron columns supporting the pier dock, and it is feared the work of destruction is not yet ended.

The Great South bay, on Long Island Sound, has been frozen over for some weeks. Yesterday a sleigh, with two horses, crossed from Babylon to Oak Island, secured a load of oysters and returned, a feat not known to have been accomplished before for twenty years.

Advices in regard to the California deluge state that in the Sacramento valley the waters are falling and the worst is thought to be over. Many streams are lying over the submerged plains, taking off people and stock, the latter congregated on levees and knolls, and in many instances standing in shallow water. A number of people and many cattle have been drowned.

At a court martial of Cadet Whitaker, in New York yesterday Gen. Schofield said that during the session of the court of inquiry his whole desire had been to establish the innocence of Whitaker, "because," said the General, "he was a young man under my charge, and consequently entitled to all the protection I could give him, and because I had retained him in the Academy in opposition to all the academic board." (H)

Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio R. R.

The case of the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio railroad, upon application of the railroad company to be allowed to pay all sums due plaintiffs in the case of Kline's Skiddy and others vs. the road, and assets, and to that end obtain a postponement of the sale, was up for consideration in the United States Circuit Court, at Richmond, yesterday.

The petition of the railroad company, through its president, Gen. W. Mahone, was presented by Gen. B. F. Butler, representing the capitalists residing in New York and elsewhere, who have expressed a willingness to advance the money necessary to redeem the road, in consideration of which petitioners ask, first, that the decree of May 9, 1879, declaring the time of redemption closed, may be reopened in that regard; second, that the sale advertised for February 10 is not may be postponed for ninety days; and the time of redemption extended sixty days; third that the cases be referred to the masters for report as to the amount necessary to redeem the road with leave to petitioners or their associates to pay off the same at or before the time limited within which redemption of said road may be effected, and that the receivers be required to settle their accounts, with leave to any party to lodge an application to the court for the division of said disputed matter in the account; fourth, that in consideration that the lien of the State of Virginia are next in dignity to the consolidated mortgage, and as the State of Virginia has suffered the time to elapse she might redeem, and has made application to the court to redeem, and as otherwise the payment now proposed would inure to her benefit, that the court decree that the company, or the parties advancing said money at the request of the company, should be subrogated in respect to all sums paid to the holders of coupons under the consolidated mortgage to the rights of said holders, so that the State of Virginia may not redeem said road without paying to the holders of said subordinated lien the amount by them advanced to redeem said road, and may not receive the benefit of such payments made by others; fifth, that the deposit money, amounting to \$100,000, for security, be retained in the registry of the court, to indemnify all persons interested, against the expense and costs of postponing said sale and of interest by accruing on undischarged securities during the time of such postponement. Gen. Butler spoke in advocacy of the petition. He was followed by Jos. H. Choate, Esq., and Judge W. D. Shipman, of New York, of counsel for the English bondholders, against it. The court then adjourned until to day, when Gen. Butler will speak in behalf of the petitioners.

Gen. Butler's speech was not particularly orate. He merely called attention to the disadvantages that may accrue to the different Virginia interests in the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio road if the sale is permitted to go on Thursday, and gave a brief review of the history of the road.

Mr. Choate, one of the English bondholders, declared that great interest would be done by the sale of the road, as the amount offered to be put up might not, and probably would not, indemnify them against the loss they might sustain by postponement. He said that he had secured a purchaser who was willing to pay eight millions one hundred thousand dollars for the road, the amount of the principal and interest of the English bondholders. It is believed that it is a syndicate formed in Philadelphia and other Northern cities by the English interests. It is rumored that some of the Mahone-Clyde syndicate who had promised to furnish money to pay up the amount of the past due interest, upon which the petition for a stay of sale was granted.

A dispatch from Richmond says: "Sir," the late Jefferson Davis was brought before the Federal grand jury to answer an indictment preferred against him by the grand jury for alleged connection with the late war, no such crowd has gathered in that court room as the one which assembled there to see Ben Butler stop sale of the railroad. General Butler is well known in this section—not less on account of outburst pronounced against him by the Confederate authorities than by reason of being the author of the Dutch Gap canal. This is said to be his first visit to Richmond since the war. To see the court room is a rare sight here to create a sensation by his appearance in public. Nearly half the Richmond Bar, several state judges, and many lawyers from a distance, were present. Judges Bond and Hughes occupied the bench. In the way of inaugurating proceedings, General Butler said that his brother, Mr. Wise, would read the petition, as it was in his handwriting, and therefore, Mr. John S. Wise read the paper.

It is declared in Berlin official circles that the mission of Mr. Goshen in regard to the Turkish quarrel has been entirely successful. A Constantinople dispatch says that the Greek minister visited the Port yesterday for the first time in two months.

FOREIGN NEWS.

The Boers recently attacked Lydenburg, but were repulsed.

A number of Home Rule members of Parliament will visit Michael Davitt, in prison, next week.

The Grecian army has been increased to 64,000 men, and a further increase to 70,000 is being immediately effected.

The Spanish ministry has resigned in consequence of the refusal of the King to sanction a new departure in Spanish finances.

A fire in the Victoria docks, at London, this morning, destroyed a number of barges and trucks and caused some damage to shipping.

The acceptance by the United States of France's proposal for an international monetary conference in Paris was announced in the French council of ministers yesterday.

The situation in the revolted British dependencies in Africa wears a more serious appearance. Reinforcements are being hastened to Basutoland, the Transvaal and the Gold Coast.

The debate on the Irish coarboin bill in the British House of Commons was resumed last night. It is expected the bill will be ready for the Queen's signature by the 21st inst. A meeting of the Land League was held in Dublin, yesterday, and Mr. Dillon consoling continued resistance to the landlords, but urged that the time had not arrived for forcible resistance. A resolution was passed requesting Mr. Parnell to visit America and keep up the interest in the cause in this country. Parnell is now at Frankfurt, where the funds of the League have been invested.

Falling in of a Railroad Depot.

Shortly after 9 o'clock yesterday morning, the arched roof of the old New York Central depot on Exchange street, Buffalo, New York, overwhelmed with the accumulated snow, and weakened by the removal of supports, fell crashingly to the earth, burying a number of persons and cars beneath a tumbled mass of iron, wood, glass, snow and brick. Among the people known to be in the depot just previous to the crash were depot master Byron Kring and John Ready, of Messrs. Johnston Bros.' eating house, who stood near together about the center of the bridge; David C. Gibson, a switchman; E. M. Stevens and Robert Berry, baggage men; R. C. Smith, messenger of the Lake Shore Road; P. J. Harrier, Henry Eckert, D. S. Hubbs and other employees. Half a dozen passengers were in the cars of a waiting train, and one or two others, who are believed to be lost, were standing in the depot. Coroner Scott had just braced the switch engine when a sudden fall of snow and ice, falling in from the roof of the depot, and immediately afterward the south wall, about sixty feet from the roof, began to totter, and fall. Depot master Kring succeeded in getting beneath a brick wall which held it up, but his cap was torn from his head by fragments. Mr. Smith ran into the vestibule of the abandoned eating house and escaped through the cellar. Mr. Waters, who was just behind him, was caught by a timber and shell. The passengers within other portions of the falling roof crashed out both alive and dead. The bodies of Capt. Bryan, Henry Eckert, D. S. Hubbs and other employees. Half a dozen passengers were in the cars of a waiting train, and one or two others, who are believed to be lost, were standing in the depot. 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